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Chairman: Mr. Penke ..... (Latvia)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/64/99, A/64/121, A/64/123, A/64/130, A/64/227-S/2009/402, A/C.3/64/L.2)

Agenda item 105: Drug control (A/64/120, A/64/92-E/2009/98)

Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) recalled that Member States had had the foresight 10 years earlier to reinforce their collective effort against drugs, transnational organized crime and terrorism, holding a special session of the General Assembly devoted to narcotics, signing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and adopting Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) creating the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, followed by resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001) to reinforce the multilateral response to international terrorism. The results, he noted, had been mixed, but the drug problem could still be contained by improving health, re-establishing justice and enforcing security against terror. To do so, however, Member States of the United Nations and all other stakeholders would need to show real determination and forge alliances.

2. Faced with the sinister triad of drugs, crime and terrorism, UNODC was working to promote the virtuous trio of health, justice and security. At its instigation, the United Nations system was now redirecting its drug control activities towards promoting health. According to the policy statement adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009, an integrated and balanced strategy must be pursued to combat the worldwide drug problem, and the Office was cooperating with the World Health Organization (WHO) to improve treatment for drug users, especially in developing countries, so as to reduce demand. It was also cooperating with Governments and local authorities to facilitate the social integration of marginalized groups, encourage the decriminalization of drug abuse, and support improved treatment for imprisoned drug addicts in order to halt the spread of HIV.

3. On the supply side, the Office was supporting alternative development programmes in countries that produced opium, cocaine and cannabis, contributing in this way to economic growth and security in poor regions of the world. However, with drug-related crimes threatening to destabilize the entire world, legalization was not a viable solution, for it risked exacerbating the problem and sparking a social and humanitarian catastrophe, particularly in developing countries. In fact, not a single Member State had proposed such an option.

4. UNODC was therefore encouraging the prevention and treatment of drug addiction, and was using its expertise to help Member States combat drug-related crime. It was working as well with various agencies to implement regional action plans against drugs and crime in Africa, in the Americas and in Europe, and it had provided support for the establishment of regional information centres in Central Asia and in the Gulf region, as well as for the trilateral initiative associating Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

5. UNODC was committed to security and justice for all, and had made the struggle against organized crime one of its priority fields of intervention, recognizing that this form of crime now had a worldwide and macroeconomic dimension and represented a threat so severe that it had been the subject of several debates in the Security Council. Criminals were attracted to regions of the world beset by insecurity, conflict and corruption. Security and development were therefore essential and must go hand-in-hand with the establishment of justice. For this reason, the Office was cooperating with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to consolidate the rule of law in such countries as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, and was helping to strengthen judicial capacities for combating piracy, terrorism and the various forms of transit trafficking in the Horn of Africa. It was also planning to tackle the links between the criminal underground and the business world, by helping to improve the techniques for combating money-laundering and identity theft and, in general, to promote judicial integrity with a view to reducing corruption.

6. Better use could be made of the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and against Corruption. With respect to the latter instrument, Member States should also take the opportunity of the Conference of States Parties, scheduled for Doha in November 2009, to define a mechanism for monitoring its enforcement, and they

should call upon the expertise of the Office for taking all the measures mentioned in that treaty.

7. The United Nations continued to give great importance to these problems, and the international community now had the means to deal with them more effectively. On this point, the World Drug Report offered an overview of the situation and the impact that crime was having on development in several regions of the world. A world crime report would also be released shortly. In addition, the Office had reinforced its capacities, extended its scope of action, and forged partnerships with other United Nations agencies, regional organizations, international financial institutions, and civil society.

8. It must be noted that the Office, with a budget representing only 1 per cent of the United Nations ordinary budget, was encountering difficulties in carrying out its mission, because of inadequate funds. Member States should try to remedy this problem and take full advantage of all the resources and specialized expertise of the Office for dealing with these three scourges that continue to threaten humanity.

9. **Mr. Rastam** (Malaysia) asked for details on the UNODC role in combating money-laundering, with respect in particular to capacity-building, and on steps taken to coordinate its activities with those of other institutions concerned, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, so as to avoid duplication of efforts.

10. **Mr. Amangona** (Côte d'Ivoire) referred to the letter of 28 July 2009 sent to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations (A/64/227-S/2009/402) reporting that chemical precursors used in the manufacture of explosives and narcotics and originating in Côte d'Ivoire had entered Guinean territory. Astonished at this accusation, he wanted to assure the international community that Côte d'Ivoire was not engaged in any way in such trade. In fact it was itself the victim of the illegal dumping of toxic products on its territory, it was combating the traffic in drugs and illicit substances, and it could never be a staging point for this kind of traffic toward friendly countries. It reserved the right, after an investigation, to report to the General Assembly on how that document should be dealt with.

11. **Mr. Vimal** (India) asked what importance UNODC attached to promoting alternative livelihoods in regions where people lived primarily from crops used to produce drugs, and what funding the Office had available for this activity. He also wanted to know the Office's priorities and he asked for clarification on the priority it seemed to be giving to treating drug abuse rather than combating drug production. He also wondered what effects the economic and financial crisis was having on the Office's financing and activities.

12. **Mrs. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone) mentioned the considerable efforts that her country, just emerging from a conflict, was making to combat organized transnational crime, and drug trafficking in particular.

13. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) asked whether, despite its financial troubles, UNODC was planning to update the tools and manuals it supplied to Member States.

14. **Mrs. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) pointed to the difficulties her country was facing, as a country of transit, in securing the necessary funds to combat human trafficking, terrorism and illegal immigration, and wondered what solutions might be envisaged.

15. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), responding to the question posed by the representative of Malaysia, explained that money-laundering had been conducted on a small scale until the 1980s and had been used to recycle cash, but it had then come to be conducted through financial institutions as well. The Financial Action Task Force on Money-Laundering (FATF), which was created at that time, had succeeded in curbing the recycling of dirty money through the banking system, and money-laundering had now reverted to its initial method. Thus, several States had recently impounded large sums of cash originating from drug trafficking. The financial crisis had allowed organized crime to penetrate the financial system once again, injecting liquidity into it. UNODC was examining the various forms of money-laundering and was attempting to avoid duplicating the efforts of other institutions concerned.

16. Responding to the statement of the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, the Executive Director said he was unaware that Côte d'Ivoire was suspected of being the source of the chemical precursors used in other countries of West Africa. Confirming the presence of clandestine laboratories in the Republic of Guinea, he said he was ready to discuss this matter with representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and the other countries of the coastal region of West Africa, and added that the Security Council would be devoting a session to this matter in early November.

17. In response to the question raised by the representative of India, the Executive Director agreed that it was very important to find alternative livelihoods to replace the crops used to produce drugs, particularly since they were found in poor countries. The situation was not everywhere the same, however, and the measures adopted must be properly tailored. In effect, the market could respond either to demand or to supply. In Afghanistan, it was determined by supply, in the sense that that country produced twice as much opium as the world consumed. On the other hand, in Andean countries the market was ruled by demand. In Afghanistan and in Colombia, UNODC was supporting farmers who decided to turn to legitimate crops, by helping them to market their products and contributing to the establishment of infrastructure facilities. The results in Afghanistan were indeed encouraging, for wheat production was now taking over land from opium. With respect to the financing of the Office, the voluntary contributions on which it relied in part had risen by 50 per cent since 2002, but were still hostage to the priorities of donors. Moreover, the Office lacked the funds to carry out its basic activities. It would be well if Member States were to remedy this problem, which was making the Office particularly vulnerable.

18. Responding to the observation by the representative of Sierra Leone, the Executive Director expressed his admiration for the efforts made by that country to combat drug trafficking, and mentioned the role played by the representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, while noting that the Office conducted its programmes at the regional rather than national level.

19. In response to the intervention of the representative of Pakistan, the Executive Director recalled that that country, which was not a drugs producer, was a country of transit for opium and its derivatives, heroin and morphine, coming from Afghanistan. Referring to the technical tools and manuals prepared by the Office, he agreed that they were quickly becoming obsolete, but he pointed out that the Office's financing problems had no impact here, as it was for basic activities, in particular field monitoring, that funds were lacking, and not for project execution. In addition, the Office was in contact at the ministerial level with Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran with a view to implementing trilateral cooperation to prevent the trafficking of drugs that were produced in Afghanistan and that transited through the other two countries; these efforts appeared to be bearing fruit.

20. Responding to the intervention of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Executive Director confirmed that that country was a country of transit but fortunately, as was the case with many other Arab countries of transit, it had virtually no drug addicts. He noted that the Office was helping countries in the region to combat transit traffic. Thanks to financing provided by countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic, UNODC had been able to open an office in Cairo, covering the entire region, a subregional office in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya covering the countries of the Maghreb, and another in the Gulf region. UNODC intended henceforth to focus its efforts on the Middle East, the third facet of the very complex programme it was pursuing in the region.

21. **Mr. Vimal** (India) asked the Executive Director to give further details on the World Crime Report he had mentioned in his statement, indicating in particular what types of crime would be examined, whether the report would contain rankings, and whether it would address narcoterrorism.

22. **Mr. Babadoudou** (Benin), reacting to the Executive Director's response to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, asked whether there might be duplicity on the part of the authorities of some countries that earned revenues from drug crops, and he noted that those were sometimes traditional crops that countries could not do without. He wondered therefore what solutions might be envisaged. As well, he said, there were confirmed links between drug traffickers, money-laundering and election financing. He wanted to know what difficulties these problems were posing for the Office.

23. **Mr. Mosoti** (Kenya) expressed his country's satisfaction with the work of UNODC and its collaboration with Kenya, especially on the question of witness protection, crime control, and capacity-building. He noted that the region was host to a great many refugees from Somalia, and a theatre for small arms trafficking and piracy. He asked for details on UNODC activities in this area, and wanted as well to hear the Office's recommendations on decriminalizing drug abuse, ways of preventing people from taking up drug consumption, and possible alternatives to imprisonment.

24. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), responding to the question raised by the representative of India, explained that the Office was nowhere close to publishing a world crime report that would be a

counterpart to the World Drug Report. While there were statistics available on drug trafficking, the situation with respect to organizes transnational crime was quite different. The main difficulty was to agree on units of measurement, for the important thing was to measure not perceptions but reality. In February, UNODC had produced a first world report on human trafficking. It has also presented to the Security Council a report on organized crime in West Africa, in Central America, in the Caribbean and in the Balkans, and it was about to publish one on East Africa. This represented a first step towards producing a global study of organized crime, and he would welcome the assistance and advice of States for this purpose.

25. Responding to the representative of Benin, the Executive Director confirmed that factories producing synthetic drugs had recently appeared in West Africa. On the other hand, with respect to possible duplicity on the part of certain Governments, he did not think that this was the case, even in the major producing countries, for the very good reason that over the last century no country had been able to achieve lasting development by relying on illicit activities. The evidence suggested very clearly that there was corruption in these countries and that it facilitated drug trafficking – money could not be laundered, for example, without what was called the "white collar mafia" – but one could not speak of duplicity at the official level.

26. Responding to the statement of the representative of Kenya, the Executive Director stressed that that country was suffering from activities in Somalia and the lack of control on the part of the Somali Government, and he noted that UNODC was the main institution combating piracy in Kenya. Actions needed to be pursued not only at sea but also on land; steps must be taken to counter this phenomena by promoting development and improving economic conditions in the pirates' home countries, and making use of the courts. UNODC must therefore help improve the judicial system in the region's most seriously affected countries, particularly Kenya, and Member States must also contribute their support. As to decriminalizing drug abuse, UNODC had consistently pursued this line of action. The Office considered that drug abuse in its many forms was mainly a health problem. The Executive Director asked Member States not to put drug addicts in jail but to take them in hand and provide them care, and to be much tougher towards the drug barons.

27. **Mrs. Booker** (Bahamas) asked what cooperation projects the Office was planning with Caribbean countries.

28. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) confirmed that UNODC was cooperating with countries of the region, although it had had to close its office in Barbados because it was ineffective. Together with the World Bank, the Office was working to prepare a report on crime in the Caribbean, and its causes. The countries of this region were poor, their population was young, there were great income disparities, and justice systems were ineffective, a combination of elements that explained the prevalence of crime in these countries. This problem was also an obstacle to foreign investment and was thus a factor of underdevelopment. The UNODC report had been presented to the ministerial meeting held in Santo Domingo in February 2009, and the initiatives proposed had been ratified. In follow-up to the Political Declaration on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, Terrorism and Other Serious Crime in the Caribbean, UNODC had decided to replicate in that region an initiative conducted in Asia to combat drug trafficking.

29. **Mr. Benwik** (Sweden) took the floor on behalf of the European Union. Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey (candidate countries), Albania, Montenegro and Serbia (stabilization and association process and potential candidate countries) as well as Norway, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia associated themselves with his statement. Pointing to the worldwide nature of organized crime, which had harmful effects in many areas, he said the European Union would continue its determined effort to fight organized crime, and impunity as well, by participating actively in all initiatives of the international community, seeking full enforcement of the pertinent international instruments to which most Member States were party, and supporting regional mechanisms of judicial and police cooperation.

30. The European Union was determined to eliminate human trafficking and to protect the victims of this modern form of slavery through stricter law enforcement and through attacking the deep economic and social causes of the problem. The European Union welcomed the many recent adherents to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially

Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and it encouraged States parties to collaborate more closely to enforce these two instruments by creating a solid and effective follow-up mechanism.

31. The European Union was also determined to combat corruption, which undermined institutions and impeded development. The United Nations Convention against Corruption illustrated the position of the international community in this area, and States parties should take the occasion of the Doha conference in November 2009 to prepare an effective, transparent follow-up mechanism that was open to all.

32. Highlighting the pressing need to combat terrorism in all its forms while respecting international law, the European Union stressed the key role of the United Nations in this regard and gave its unreserved support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, calling upon all stakeholders including civil society and the private sector to devote themselves to implementing it. The European Union was providing active support to the Monitoring Team, which must remain the principal oversight body for coordinated and integrated application of the strategy. He commended the joint work of the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC and stressed the need to give that branch the resources necessary to carry out its mandate.

33. The European Union welcomed the adoption, during the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, of the Policy Declaration and Plan of Action on international cooperation, calling for a balanced and comprehensive approach to solving the world drug problem. He recalled that this struggle must be pursued with full respect for international law, the rule of law, and the principle of proportionality. The European Union had taken account of the objectives set by the United Nations in preparing its anti-drug action plan for 2009-2012, and comprehensive regional strategies were needed to combat drug consumption and trafficking.

34. Echoing the strong message contained in Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), the European Union was calling upon all Member States, in particular the producing countries, neighbouring countries and countries of transit, to step up international and regional cooperation to halt the diversion of chemical precursors, to redouble efforts to reduce narcotics supply and demand and the harmful consequences of drug abuse, and to facilitate access to treatment. It also welcomed the decisions taken recently on this matter by the Economic and Social Council.

35. Finally, the European Union was deeply concerned at the rising instances of piracy, hostage-taking – which it vigorously condemned – and armed robberies, in the face of which the international community must react appropriately.

36. **Mrs. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that drug trafficking, which was closely linked to terrorism and to transnational organized crime, constituted not only a grave health threat but also a danger for the stability of States and of the international community as a whole. For this reason, the problem needed to be attacked from all angles, and it should be examined each year by the Third Committee. Member States of the CSTO shared the view of UNODC that narcotics should not be legalized and that, on the contrary, controls and measures to combat the illicit spread of narcotics in the world should be reinforced.

37. While heroin and cocaine production was declining, there were still some 250 million drug consumers around the world, or 6 per cent of the global population, and the proceeds of drug trafficking exceeded the GNP of more than 90 countries. Resort to synthetic drugs and injectable drugs was rising year by year. Central Asia was particularly threatened by the spread of heroin production in Afghanistan, which accounted for 90 per cent of world supply. Every year, 150 tons of heroin from that country transited through Central Asia towards Russia and Europe, posing a grave threat to peace and international security. The CSTO member States, which were neither producing nor destination countries, were seeing an upsurge in drug abuse.

38. Under these conditions, regional cooperation must continue as the most effective means of putting an end to narcotics trafficking. CSTO member States were working in this area under the leadership of the Coordinating Council of anti-drug-trafficking authorities. The prevention operation known as "Channel", which had been given permanent status in 2008, had been developed for purposes of eliminating the networks trafficking drugs and chemical precursors in Central Asia and in Russia. In 2008, with the support of a growing number of CSTO member States and the

Commonwealth of Independent States, this operation helped to reduce the volume of narcotics trafficking, to prevent delinquency and to improve the crime situation, and had resulted in the seizure of significant quantities of heroin, hashish and synthetic drugs. As well, the creation of a regional information and coordination centre for Central Asia, which would officially open its doors in late 2009, was one of the joint projects carried out under the Memorandum of Cooperation for controlling the illicit production and trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors and against drug abuse, which States of the region and UNODC had signed in 1996. This centre would cooperate with the Office to analyse and share information on trafficking in narcotics originating in Afghanistan. As well, in 2008 and 2009 the Coordination Council had held several meetings and seminars in collaboration with the European Union and UNODC, and the competent bodies of CSTO member States had examined jointly the possibility of establishing a protective cordon around Afghanistan to ensure financial security and to combat drug production. At one of its sessions, the CSTO Permanent Council on Collective Security had adopted a series of joint measures to combat trafficking in narcotics, psychotropic substances and their chemical precursors, as part of the Paris-Moscow process, which would serve as the basis for an international strategy in this matter. To reinforce control over trafficking in narcotics coming from Afghanistan, it would be well to hold a third conference at the ministerial level at the end of 2010, under the Paris Pact Initiative.

39. It was also urgent to involve Afghanistan in controlling narcotics production on its territory and to cooperate with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to improve the effectiveness of action pursued in the region. There was also a need to improve mechanisms for coordinating the aid provided for controlling drug trafficking and for boosting the economy and reinforcing peace and security in Afghanistan. Welcoming the growing role that the International Security Assistance Force was playing in this area, CSTO member States would like to see the issue of chemical precursors in Afghanistan examined pursuant to Security Council resolution 1817 (2008).

40. United Nations Member States had been waging a long and courageous battle to eliminate not only the illicit supply of narcotics but also the demand for them, through international cooperation and national strategies, and they must persevere on this path. The CSTO was ready to cooperate with the United Nations and to make every effort to put an end to this world problem.

41. **Mr. Ashiki** (Japan) pointed out that technical progress was a mixed blessing, as it also promoted transnational organized crime, and in particular human trafficking, cybercrime, weapons and drugs trafficking, and corruption. The international community could only stamp out this scourge through concerted efforts involving the private sector, and by empowering all stakeholders. It must not be content with remedying the harmful effects of transnational organized crime, but must also foster sustainable development for fragile States in order to eliminate the underlying causes of crime and thus move closer to the common goal of human security.

42. In its efforts against transnational organized crime Japan was acting on three fronts. First, it was helping establish the necessary multilateral legal framework by encouraging universal adherence to the existing instruments and the adoption of new instruments. Second, it was offering legal aid to developing countries, particularly in Asia, hosting seminars on the application of counter-terrorism instruments and financing capacity-building activities by UNODC. Since the end of the Second World War, Japan had in this area pursued a policy of zero tolerance, as evident in its "Dame zettai" campaign, and the International Narcotics Control Board had praised its action. Japan would be happy to share with other countries the experience it had gained in taking a comprehensive approach that targeted both supply and demand, together with strict controls. It would continue to offer official development assistance for eradicating poverty, a factor for criminal activity, and reinforcing peace and security in the world. It was also fighting crime through such initiatives as the drug control and alternative development project, which had succeeded in wiping out poppy growing in the Wa region of Myanmar. Third, Japan was encouraging concerted action by Governments and international organizations, including UNODC. It thought it essential that the Third Committee should give careful attention to the questions referred to it and should formulate specific proposals, and it supported the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009 and the decision taken by the parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in October 2008 to

create a working group to oversee enforcement of the trafficking protocol. Finally, it hoped that the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption would result in creating an effective monitoring mechanism.

43. Japan thanked Brazil for hosting the twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a forum that was contributing to the primacy of law and the adoption of a comprehensive approach to cooperation in this area. Japan sincerely hoped that the international community would seize that occasion to move forward towards reinforcing the legal framework and policing capacities, sustaining the development of developing countries, and promoting coordination among States and international organizations in order to rid the world of transnational organized crime.

44. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) regretted that the considerable means offered by the information age were being diverted to criminal purposes, and he stressed that transnational organized crime was thriving because of the poverty of developing countries as well as the technical progress of rich countries. The drug trade, human trafficking and money-laundering were all fuelled by demand from rich countries, which was being supplied from developing countries. Given the characteristics of international crime, combating it required not only respect for the obligations imposed by international instruments and the forging of partnerships but also, at the local level, implementing alternative development activities and pursuing programmes to eradicate poverty.

45. Aware of its responsibilities in the face of the complex and multifaceted phenomenon of transnational crime, Pakistan considered that the world drug problem required stronger international cooperation, and it hoped that the Policy Declaration and Plan of Action would contribute to eliminating the drug problem. Pakistan had succeeded in halting the illicit growing of opium poppies, through a strategy based both on suppression and on alternative development. As a transit country, Pakistan had taken an active part in regional and international operations to control the flow of drugs from neighbouring regions and the flow of chemical precursors to those regions. Its drug control plan for 2009-2013 took account of the situation in the region and included measures to reduce supply and demand. The country was participating in international operations, such as the UNODC "Rainbow Strategy", as well as in regional operations such as the trilateral initiative between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, which the Secretary-General had praised for its effectiveness.

46. With respect to human trafficking, Pakistan had promulgated a prevention ordinance, under which civil society was helping to rehabilitate the victims. A national plan of action would be adopted shortly and a counter-trafficking unit had been created within the Federal Investigation Agency. Pakistan had recently subscribed to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and had promulgated an anti-money-laundering ordinance creating within the national bank a financial control unit to cooperate with other countries in combating money-laundering and terrorist financing.

47. With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, the access to justice programme was helping reform the criminal justice system and to modernize the police forces. To control its borders more effectively, Pakistan was introducing the Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System, with assistance from the international community. The struggle against international crime required a comprehensive approach and a firm, long-term political and financial commitment, including capacity-building and appropriate financial and technical assistance.

48. **Mr. Sanchez** (Mexico) called on all Member States to redouble their efforts against trafficking, which the President of his country had called "the slavery of the twenty-first century". Pointing to some of the broad trends cited in the UNODC World Drug Report, he said that Mexico was engaged in an all-out struggle against criminal organizations, while seeking to protect the country's young people from the scourge of drug abuse. The money seized during police operations has been used to open 320 "New Life Centres" throughout the country, dedicated to preventing drug abuse.

49. International cooperation was essential for drug control, and Mexico was playing an active part in all regional and international initiatives against drugs and drug-related crime. On this point, he welcomed adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action against narcotics at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and recalled the draft resolution on combating the laundering of assets derived from drug trafficking and related offences that Mexico had presented on that occasion.

50. Mexico was firmly engaged in the battle against drugs, and would once again be presenting a resolution on "international cooperation to counter the world drug problem", which would focus this year on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Given the importance of those instruments for the international community, that resolution should receive unanimous support.

51. **Mr. Johnson** (United States of America) welcomed adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which would assist progress in enforcing the three United Nations Conventions on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, and which should now be approved by resolution of the General Assembly.

52. Despite the instances of success that the United States had achieved in drug control, such as the decline in the consumption of illicit drugs and prescription medications among adolescents since 2002, the problem was still sizable and new measures were therefore planned, in particular a new drug control strategy more comprehensive than the old "war on drugs", which had shown its limitations, and a new focus on the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, which was a disease. The United States would continue its research to identify the most effective methods and to share them with the rest of the international community. Steps also had to be taken, however, to dismantle international criminal organizations, which were enriching themselves illegally and were threatening political stability, economic growth, and the rule of law in many countries. To this end, greater use would have to be made of the international instruments in place.

53. Progress had been made in combating drugs in the American hemisphere, particularly in Colombia and in Mexico. Accepting its responsibility to contribute to these efforts, the United States was working to strengthen collaboration with countries of the region, specifically within the Merida Initiative, in order to improve the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, to promote the rule of law, and to combat the criminal organizations that threatened societies.

54. On the other hand, in West Africa and in Afghanistan drug trafficking posed a threat to political stability and economic growth. The United States would continue to fund UNODC activities, particularly in Afghanistan, and it called on other countries to make off-budget contributions to the Office as well.

55. Member countries should cooperate more closely in the struggle against crime and corruption, and should ratify and enforce the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. As to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, it was entering into its application phase and the United States was looking forward to the conference to be held in Doha in November 2009, at which States parties would try to produce an effective, transparent and open monitoring mechanism. The United States intended this year to toughen its policy on admitting to its territory persons who paid or received bribes.

56. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt) welcomed the technical assistance that UNODC was extending to developing countries to reinforce the capacity to counter devastating scourges such as terrorism, corruption and transnational organized crime. At this time of globalization, the international community must stand united against crime and at the same time combat the drug trade, human trafficking, money-laundering and terrorist financing.

57. It was true that the areas planted in conventional narcotic crops had declined but action now had to be taken against synthetic drugs, which technical progress had made easier to develop. This called for stronger international cooperation.

58. While the efforts of UNODC and its partners were laudable, the United Nations should work in closer partnership with Africa, and in particular with countries emerging from conflict, and also with the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The success of reconstruction efforts was heavily dependent on the assistance that United Nations agencies were supplying for the implementation of strategies and action plans against organized crime and trafficking, particularly as the persistence of this phenomenon was undermining efforts to consolidate peace and was at the same time facilitating the purchase of light weapons and supporting global terrorist networks. The importance of international cooperation against drug trafficking had also been reaffirmed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-second session, during which it had prepared an international plan of action, one that Member States should strive to implement fully.

59. When it came to human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children, the international community was just beginning to take action. Despite the many international instruments to combat this phenomenon – most recently the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and

its protocols – there were more than 12 million people, in their majority women and children, who were victims of forced labour, while the profits generated by the sexual exploitation of women and children amounted to $28 billion. Human trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour or the sale of organs ranked third among the most profitable types of organized crime in the world, after weapons and narcotics trafficking.

60. Current measures were inadequate to combat human trafficking. Egypt, for its part, had launched a national campaign under the leadership of the First Lady to combat and prevent human trafficking, to protect the victims, and to bring the perpetrators to justice. The First Lady had also taken part in the World Forum to Fight Human Trafficking organized by UNODC in February 2008 and had headed a national campaign under the slogan "Let's put an end to trafficking!", under the auspices of the Suzanne Mubarak International Movement of Women for Peace, intended to reinforce the role of civil society and the private sector in combating this scourge, which afflicted the African continent in particular. At its summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, the African Union had adopted a resolution in this sense, thereby confirming the unity of the efforts deployed by Africa and the international community to formulate a world action plan. The Sharm el-Sheikh Summit Declaration adopted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in July 2009 gave clear expression to the determination of member countries to work for adoption of a world plan of action to eliminate human trafficking, recognizing that the current legal framework was inadequate. Egypt had no doubt that the General Assembly would do its all to support the preparation of such an instrument.

61. Egypt vigorously condemned terrorist attacks, whatever their motivation, and in particular the one committed in Pakistan on 6 October 2009 against a United Nations building, which had killed several staff members. Negotiations should be re-launched for a general convention on international terrorism and the definition of terrorist acts should be revised to recognize the differences between a terrorist act and a legitimate act committed in accordance with international humanitarian law by national liberation movements in the exercise of their right to self-determination. Adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represented a decisive milestone, placing as it did greater stress on the need to examine the existing framework for international cooperation. The time had come to organize an international conference without delay, under United Nations auspices, in order to formulate a definition of terrorism and on that basis to negotiate a global convention on terrorism.

62. **Mrs. Kolontai** (Belarus) said the international community must show determination in meeting the many challenges threatening the security of States and the world, and this could be done only through political partnership. Governments, international organizations and civil society should pool their efforts to curb human trafficking, which was a true attack on human dignity. It was laudable that the United Nations was paying greater attention to this question, and UNDP in particular, which in 2009 for the first time had devoted a chapter of its Human Development Report to human trafficking; and of course UNODC had published the 2009 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

63. In 2006 and in 2008 Belarus had submitted a draft resolution on improving coordination against human trafficking, and calling for creation of a partnership against trafficking and other contemporary forms of slavery, and it intended to go further in 2009 by presenting a new draft resolution setting out specific measures for institutionalizing that partnership.

64. As to preparation of the world plan of action against trafficking, all United Nations Member States should participate actively in the work. Human trafficking would in this way be more severely suppressed, something that was essential when one recognized that 20 per cent of its victims were children.

65. **Mr. Liu** (China) said that the international community had continued to make progress in 2009 in preventing and combating transnational crime. The United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and against Corruption and the three conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 on narcotics and psychotropic substances had certainly laid the basis for global governance, but international terrorism, transnational organized crime and the production and trafficking of drugs, all of which were inextricably linked, were thriving unabated. To prevent and combat them effectively, international cooperation must be reinforced in the areas of extradition, legal and technical assistance, and recovery of assets, for example, while respecting the principles of sovereignty, equality and mutual interest. In this regard China supported the work of UNODC and the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

66. China had always been conscientious in fulfilling its obligations under the conventions against transnational organized crime and corruption. It had taken legislative, executive and judicial measures and had amended its Criminal Code to reinforce the fight against corruption and human trafficking; it had also signed 106 treaties of legal assistance

67. China was firmly opposed to the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons: it had strict controls on their export and was prepared to play a more active role regionally and internationally to put an end to the traffic.

68. When it came to narcotics control, the international community had made progress but there were still great obstacles to be overcome. Despite the drop in global output of cocaine and heroin and the shrinking market for cannabis and opium, the production, trafficking and consumption of new drugs showed no signs of declining, the diversion of chemical precursors remained a cause of concern, funds for financing alternative development activities were inadequate, and youth remained in thrall to drug abuse. International cooperation was of the essence here. In this regard, China supported the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and it welcomed the work done by UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Bureau. China applied a total ban on drugs and had adopted a comprehensive and integrated national strategy. It was controlling chemical precursors strictly and taking resolute steps to combat trafficking in those substances. Finally, it attached great importance to educating young people and adolescents to prevent drug abuse.

69. China was actively involved in various international and regional mechanisms to control drugs and combat drug-related offences. It had successfully helped neighbouring countries to choose substitute crops for opium, and was also cooperating tirelessly with the United States and with European countries with a view to eliminating the scourge of narcotics.

70. **Mr. Thaung Tun** (Myanmar) welcomed the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and pointed out that, while drug control was by no means a new issue, the scourge of narcotics was now making itself felt around the planet. Banning the marketing of a given drug, as had been done in recent decades, served only to shift the problem to other substances. In addition to considering supply and demand, questions of health and the promotion of viable means of livelihood also had to be taken into account. The struggle against drugs would not be won without the political will to attack the problem and without recognition by States that they had an interest in helping each other.

71. Myanmar was hoping to eliminate illicit drugs from its territory by the year 2014, through a 15-year plan based on two strategies that involved anti-narcotics campaigns and eradicating opium poppy crops in border areas while offering producers other means of livelihood and raising living standards. Considerable funds had already been committed to infrastructure improvements to this end, and Myanmar had received valuable assistance from the United Nations and other international players. At the same time, Myanmar had reinforced its legislation and its legal capacities and had in this way succeeded in cutting annual opium production substantially and in eliminating opium poppy growing in some parts of the country. New tendencies in the consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances were emerging among young people, however. Myanmar was well aware of the threat posed by stimulants of the amphetamine type. It did not produce the chemical precursors used to make these synthetic drugs, and it was cooperating closely with neighbouring countries to control those substances and keep them out of its territory. The security forces of Myanmar were also doing effective work in this field.

72. Yet despite all the progress made, greater efforts would be needed to rid the world of this scourge and to accompany national efforts by regional and international cooperation.

73. **Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia) welcomed the growing attention that was being paid to new forms of crime such as trafficking in forest products, including lumber, wild species and other biological forest resources, which not only affected individuals but also undermined the ecosystem. Hailing the decision taken in 2008 by the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to examine this question at its 2010 session, he said that the twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would provide the opportunity to consolidate the strategy for combating new forms of crime, and declared that Indonesia supported the efforts to prepare two United Nations conventions, one against cybercrime and the other against money-laundering.

74. Combating corruption remained a high priority for Indonesia, which had participated voluntarily in a pilot programme to examine implementation of the United Nations convention on this matter. Indonesia had also adopted a national plan of action against corruption, including both preventive and repressive measures. Finally, it was cooperating closely with other countries to facilitate the return of stolen assets to their countries of origin under the StAR initiative.

75. With respect to human trafficking, Indonesia was firmly opposed to it and was calling for action to clamp down on international trafficking rings and to guarantee protection for victims. Together with Australia, Indonesia had co-chaired the third regional ministerial conference on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime, known as the Bali Process.

76. On the counterterrorism front, Indonesia had been hard hit by this scourge and believed that its root causes must be attacked, while ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. It would continue to promote moderation and tolerance, while at the same time stepping up enforcement measures. Because terrorism recognized no borders, Indonesia was contributing to a number of regional programmes to strengthen capacities and share information through the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, in close partnership with the Australian Government.

77. Finally, when it came to international drug control, Indonesia welcomed the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Indonesia was determined to help strengthen international cooperation and was convinced that, if they were to be effective, the measures adopted must take into account both supply and demand, and that alternative development activities would have to be proposed for combating drugs effectively. International cooperation and the sharing of responsibilities would be needed to guarantee success in these actions.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.